TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX WOMEN'S HEALTH

WS 400 Winter 2013

University of Michigan

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WHAT IS SEX?

"A classification of an individual ~~as male or female~~ on the basis of anatomic, functional, hormonal, and chromosomal characteristics"

Strike out done by your GSI

Sex, n. (2008). *Mosby's Dental Dictionary* (2nd edition). Elsevier, Inc. Retrieved September 15, 2012 from http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/chromosomal+sex

WHAT IS SEX?

Morphological

Hormonal

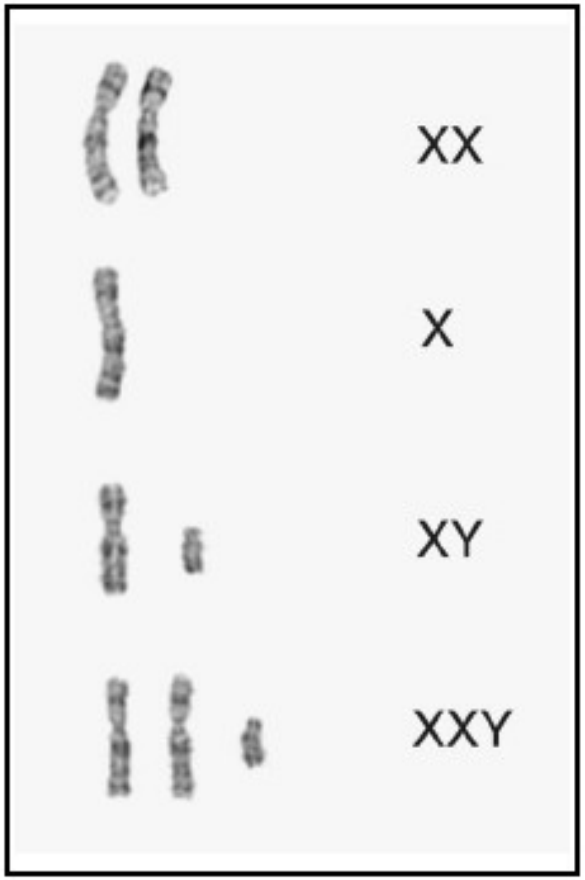
Chromosomal/genetic

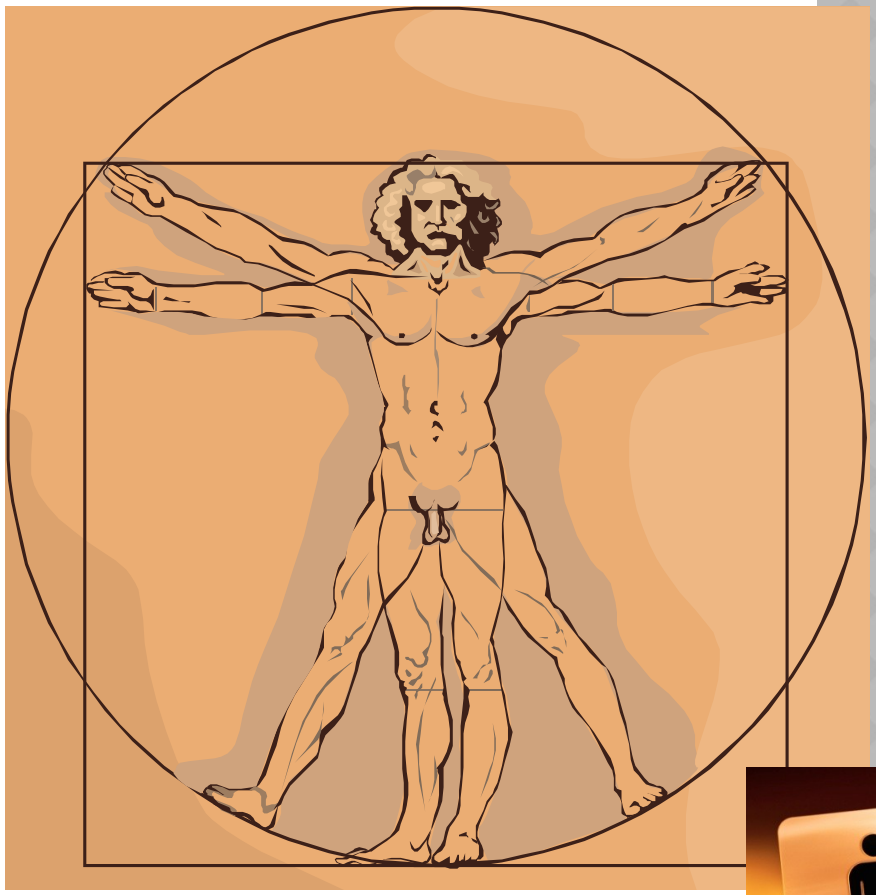
Gonadal

Phenotypic

Brain?

SOMETHING TO KEEP IN MIND





Genotype

Phenotype

WHAT IS GENDER?

"The behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex"

Gender. *Merriam-Webster*. Retrieved September 15, 2012 from http://www.merriam-webster.com/medical/gender

WHAT IS GENDER?

- Societal beliefs
  - An act?
- Gender expression
- Gender identity
- Lived experience

TRANSGENDER/ INTERSEX?

Gender identity (or expression) differs from sex or gender assigned at birth

Genotype/ phenotype not easily labeled male or female

Transgender

Intersex

CASTER SEMENYA

Getty Images

WHAT IS INTERSEX?

“Intersex” is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male….

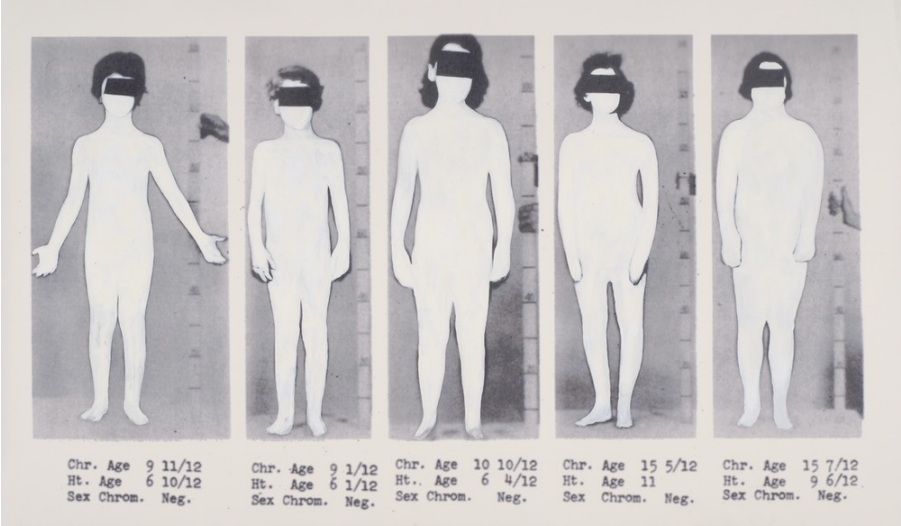
Definition excerpted from: Intersex Society of North America. (n.d.). *What is Intersex?.* Retrieved September 16, 2012 from http://www.isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex

SEX DIVERSITY

…[N]ature presents us with sex anatomy spectrums. Breasts, penises, clitorises, scrotums, labia, gonads—all of these vary in size and shape and morphology. So-called “sex” chromosomes can vary quite a bit, too….

Definition excerpted from: Intersex Society of North America. (n.d.). *What is Intersex?.* Retrieved September 16, 2012 from http://www.isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex

SURGERY AND ERASED HISTORIES



- Social emergency
- Sex and gender assigned by doctors
- Secrecy and shame
- Medical history withheld
- Physical and psychological effects

Taylor, S. (2011). *Intersex* [Painting]. Retrieved from www.sunaurataylor.org/portfolio/animal/digital-print/

SOME MYTHS AND FACTS

- Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)
  - Mild to serious
  - *May* have fertility challenges
  - Salt-wasting

- Gonadal Dysgenesis
  - Gonads do not differentiate as expected
  - XY, XX, or mixed genotype
  - Fertility challenges but some reports of fertility
  - Y genetic material associated with cancer risk

SOME MYTHS AND FACTS

- Androgen Insensitivity
  - Testosterone is not effectively registered by cell
  - Affects XY people
  - Spectrum
  - Fertility?

- Turners
  - Single X genotype
  - Mosaic XX and X genotype
  - Fertility?

- Triple X
  - Does not affect fertility

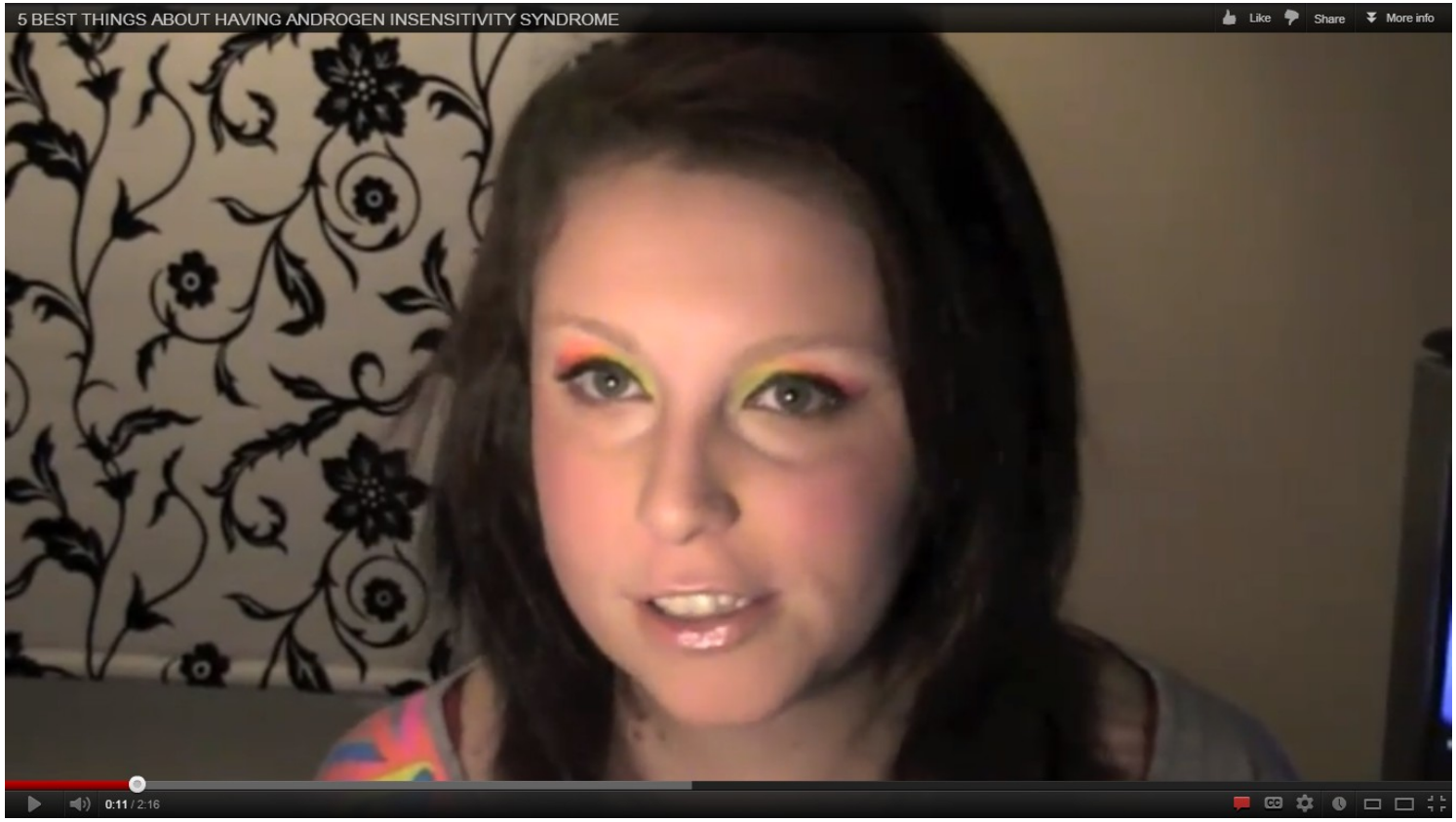
HOW COMMON IS INTERSEX?

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia	1/15000 (Classic CAH)
Androgen Insensitivity	1/13000 (Complete AI)
X	1/2500
XXX	1/1000

Prevalence by birth

IMOGEN'S PERSPECTIVE

http://youtu.be/TCZdFe5sgow



TREATMENT (CHILDREN)

- Surgery—is it necessary?
- Impact of treatment
- Sex and gender assignment
- Hormones– are they necessary?

TREATMENT (ADULTS)

- How a diagnosis may come about
- Intersex does not make you any less a woman or man
- Treatment considerations and fertility options

SOME INTERSEX RESOURCES

- Accord Alliance
  - http://www.accordalliance.org/
- Bodies Like Ours
  - http://www.bodieslikeours.org/

TRANSGENDER/ INTERSEX?

Gender identity (or expression) differs from sex or gender assigned at birth

Genotype/ phenotype not easily labeled male or female

Transgender

Intersex

THOMAS BEATTIE

TRANSGENDER

"An umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from the sex or gender they were assigned at birth, and for those whose gender expression differs from what is culturally expected of them."

erinhoudini. (n.d.). A Really Awesome Trans Glossary [Google document]. Retrieved from https://docs.google.com/document/edit?id=1YKAAZgij2IyyCUWyZtcDz2N9cav2vH1kwaZWNDp3mSQ&pli=1

SOME TERMS

- Assigned sex
- Transition
- Cisgender
- Trans woman
- Male-to-female (MTF)
- Transphobia

GENDER ROLES

http://youtu.be/5sHBAVjahp8

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Coko Williams, 35

Shelley Hilliard, 19

http://transgriot.blogspot.com/2012/04/detroit-fox-noise-affiliate-compares.html
http://www.transgenderdor.org/memorializing-2011

MISTREATMENT FROM AUTHORITIES

I said, `I'm a transgender woman,' and he made a face like he didn't know what that was." Then, according to Perez, the detective—who, she says, gave her his name and badge number—bent over and took a long look up her skirt. As he straightened, she claims, he mumbled that "anyone with a penis can't be raped.“

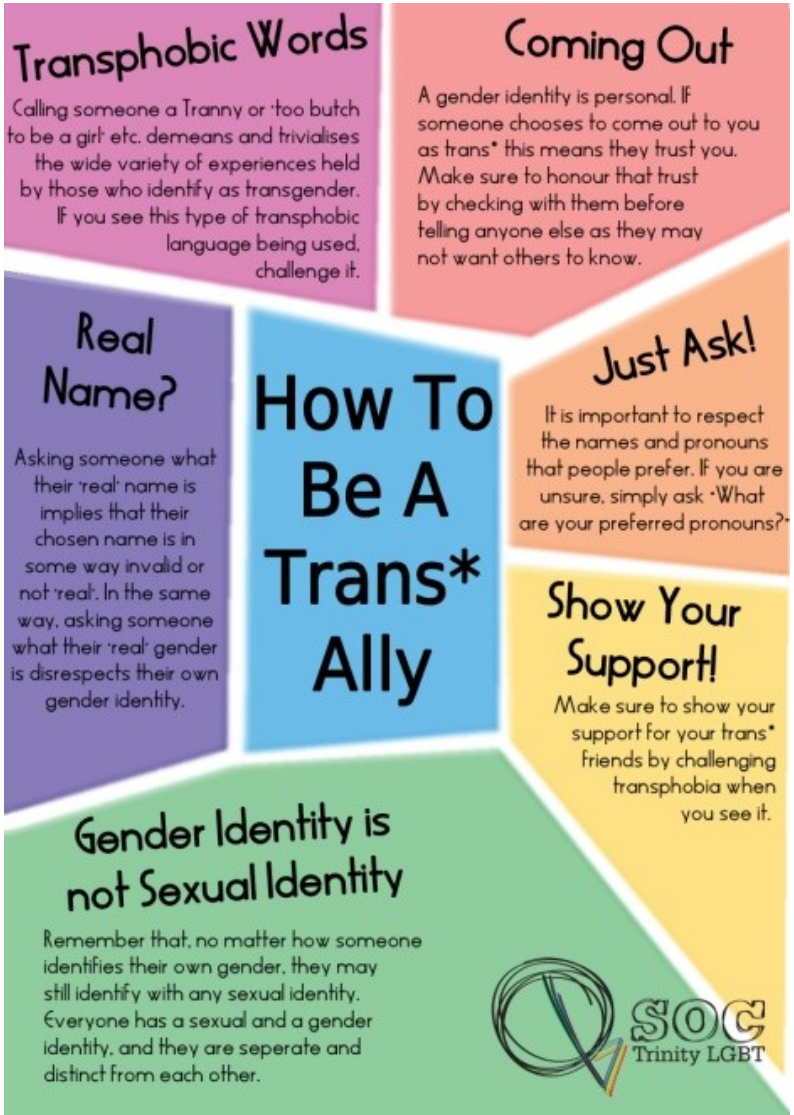
(Josephine Perez, age 21)

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

POSITIVE CHANGE

SOME TRANS RESOURCES

- National Center for Transgender Equality
  - http://transequality.org/
- Transgender Day or Remembrance
  - http://www.transgenderdor.org/memorializing-2012



A FINAL THOUGHT ON AGENCY

"I have a duty to speak the truth as I see it and share not just my triumphs, not just the things that felt good, but the pain, the intense, often unmitigated pain. It is important to share how I know survival is survival and not just a walk through the rain."

— Audre Lorde

Thank you for a great semester!